

By: Nichols, et al.

S.B. No. 1511

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of the Battleship "Texas."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the Battleship "Texas," a national historic landmark whose engines are national mechanical engineering landmarks and that is the only remaining battleship to have fought in World War I and World War II, is maintained and preserved in satisfactory condition for the benefit of the citizens of this state.

SECTION 2. Section 22.261, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 22.261. JURISDICTION. The Battleship "Texas" is under the jurisdiction of the department. The department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for a term of 99 years with an appropriate nonprofit foundation for the operation and maintenance of the Battleship "Texas."

SECTION 3. Subchapter T, Chapter 22, Parks and Wildlife Code, is amended by adding Section 22.262 to read as follows:

Sec. 22.262. PRESERVATION STANDARDS. The memorandum of understanding required by Section 22.261 must include provisions:

(1) governing the preservation, management, and operation of the Battleship "Texas" consistent with the Standards for Historic Vessel Preservation Projects with Guidelines for Applying the Standards published by the Secretary of the United

1 States Department of the Interior as those standards existed on  
2 January 1, 2019;

3 (2) requiring the nonprofit foundation described by  
4 Section 22.261 to consult with the state historic preservation  
5 officer on matters related to the preservation or repair of the  
6 battleship; and

7 (3) regarding the protection of the public's interest  
8 in maintaining and preserving a priceless historical asset in a  
9 manner that ensures the public has access to the asset and an  
10 opportunity to provide comment regarding the preservation of the  
11 asset.

12 SECTION 4. The Parks and Wildlife Department shall enter  
13 into the memorandum of understanding required by Section 22.261,  
14 Parks and Wildlife Code, as amended by this Act, not later than the  
15 later of:

16 (1) September 1, 2019; or

17 (2) the 90th day after the effective date of this Act.

18 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.